

MARCIA LECLERC
MAYOR



(860) 291-7300

DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

740 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

easthartfordct.gov

**East Hartford Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 25, 2021
Meeting held via Microsoft Teams/Teleconference**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stevenson called the meeting to order at 5:44 PM.

Members Present:

Craig Stevenson, Chair
Phil Davis
Joelle Murchison
Angie Parkinson
Veronica Rosario

Members Absent:

Lionel Lessard, Vice Chair
Pat Harmon
Anita Morrison
Carol Noel, Planning & Zoning Commission representative

Guests Present:

Eileen Buckheit, Development Director
Michael Daniels, Economic Development Coordinator
Tom Nenortas

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Murchison moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Parkinson seconded the motion.

All voted in favor, none voted opposed

Motion Passed

3. OLD BUSINESS

- **Moxi on the Rocks:** Chair Stevenson asked for and received unanimous consent to add a presentation to the agenda from Moxi on the Rocks on their proposal for a tasting room and cocktail manufacturing facility at 87 Church Street. Mr. Nenortas explained the concept and its origins and answered questions.

Ms. Parkinson moved that the Economic Development Commission endorse and support the Moxi on the Rocks Project at 87 Church Street

Ms. Rosario seconded the motion.

All voted in favor, none voted opposed

Motion Passed

- **Fuel Cell Proposal:** The project is currently stalled and Chair Stevenson said he has not received an update since learning that Fuel Cell Energy was appealing DEEP's decision.
- **Main Street:** Mr. Daniels reported that according to Assistant Corporation Counsel Richard Gentile, the EDC does not have the authority to create subcommittees. Chair Stevenson would like to arrange for special meetings to talk to stakeholders in the South Main Street area.
- **College District:** Rebel Dog Coffee Co. is now open in Goodwin's new building at Main & Ensign Street. Goodwin attended a Land-Use Group meeting to present initial plans for a research program office building at the former East Hartford Tire site at 339 Main Street.
- **Silver Lane Redevelopment:** Initial discussions are underway with the party that submitted a response to the Request for Proposals to redevelop the former Showcase Cinemas property.
- **Business Visitation Schedule:** Adam Westhaver will welcome commissioners to visit Paddle Creek Beer Company at 1277 Main Street. Commissioners plan to visit on Friday, April 9th, at 3:30 PM.
- **Lighting for Downtown Main Street:** Ms. Buckheit will provide an update on the potential for the plan at an upcoming meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- **Development Department Update:** The School Break Business Tic-Tac-Toe contest will be held in conjunction with the Public Library from April 10-18. Participants will need to take a picture at three out of nine participating businesses to enter in the contest for a \$50 gift card and a free 3D print at the library. Mr. Daniels and Ms. Buckheit encouraged the commissioners to share the contest with their friends and on social media.

There will be a series of informational webinars for small businesses beginning in May. They are currently scheduled for May 18th and 25th and June 22nd and 29th. Topics will include business plans, registering a business with the state, and financing. Partners include the Library, East Hartford CONNects, SBA, SBDC, and Goodwin University.

The Town Council passed a revised Tax Incentives Policy with minor changes from what EDC had recommended. The new policy gives a suggested template of abatement percentages and duration based on the increase of assessed value, but it still gives the Council full discretion and flexibility.

The owner of Squeaky's Cleaners at 310 Main Street has returned following a medical absence and plans to renovate his building and reopen his business, so the demolition order has been rescinded. The Zafiris Family is hoping to find a new tenant for their property at 317 Main Street.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Parkinson moved to adjourn.
 Ms. Rosario seconded the motion.
 All voted in favor, none voted opposed
 Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Daniels
 Economic Development Coordinator